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(54) **Composition and method for controlling biological growth using stabilized sodium hypobromite in synergistic combinations**

(57) A synergistic composition and method for controlling biological growth in industrial fluids are disclosed, wherein the composition comprises stabilized sodium hypobromite and at least one compound selected from the group consisting of coco alkyldimethylamine oxide, n-coco alkyltrimethylenediamine, tetraalkyl phosphonium chloride, 7-oxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane-2,3-dicarboxylic acid and 4,5-dichloro-2-n-octyl-4-isothiazoline-3-one.

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Description

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

- 5 [0001] This invention relates generally to biocides and, more particularly, to a composition and method for controlling biological growth using stabilized sodium hypobromite in synergistic combinations.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

- 10 [0002] The proliferation of microorganisms and the resultant formation of slime is a problem which commonly occurs in aqueous systems. Problematic slime producing microbes may include bacteria, fungi and algae. Slime deposits typically occur in many industrial aqueous systems including cooling water systems, pulp and paper mill systems, petroleum operations, clay and pigment slurries, recreational water systems, air washer systems, decorative fountains, food, beverage, and industrial process pasteurizers, sweetwater systems, gas scrubber systems, latex systems, industrial lubricants, cutting fluids, etc.

- 15 [0003] The proliferation of organisms such as mussels and clams is also a problem which occurs in many water systems. Growth of these organisms is a serious problem in municipal and industrial water systems such as once-through or recirculating cooling water systems, cooling ponds, intake pipes, ballast water tanks and ship reservoirs that draw water from infested bodies of water.

- 20 [0004] Biocides and antimicrobials are used to control microbial growth in a number of different aqueous media. As used herein, "control" is defined to include both inhibition and removal. If left untreated, microbes and microbial biofilms (slimes) can cause deterioration of cooling tower structures, loss in heat exchange efficiency in a cooling system, aesthetic defects in decorative fountains, promotion and acceleration of corrosion on metal surfaces, increased down time, or breaks in paper sheets in pulp and paper systems. Bacterial slimes may also be objectionable as they relate to cleanliness and sanitation in breweries, dairies, and other industrial food and beverage process water systems. The proliferation of microbial contamination in lubricants and cutting fluids is a common problem due to the elevated temperatures and unsanitary conditions found in many metal working plants.

- 25 [0005] For many types of municipal and industrial water systems, screening of intake water is often performed to prevent the entrance of large objects, including mature clams and mussels. This screening, however, does not prevent the passage of juvenile macroinvertebrates. These early life stages of the macroinvertebrates attach within water systems and mature to a size and density which cause fouling. This growth can cause severe plugging and damage to the systems they colonize, resulting in system down time and costly cleanings and repairs. As a consequence of the deleterious effects of uncontrolled biological growth and contamination in many industrial processes, different biocides and antimicrobials have been developed to aid in eliminating and controlling biological growth.

- 30 [0006] Often, one biocide is insufficient to control biological growth in the aqueous media. Biocides may act in combination, i.e. synergistically, to yield better biocidal performance as opposed to the efficacy obtained when each biocide is used separately. Biocides may act on the target organism in a number of different ways to cause cell stress or death. The mechanisms by which biocides exert biocidal activity depend upon a number of factors which include the chemical properties of the biocide, and the biochemical and physical characteristics of the target organism. Some biocides target the cell membrane or cell wall. Others target critical enzymes or the cellular metabolic machinery which leads to cell death or disruption of cellular replication.

- 35 [0007] The combination of two biocides may yield enhanced efficacy beyond the cumulative or additive effect of the two biocides. This likely reflects a synergistic biocidal effect on some essential component(s) of the cell for survival and sustained growth. A combination of two biocides that are synergistic allows for the addition of lesser amounts of the individual biocides to achieve the desired level of control. This has both advantageous environmental and economic impacts. It allows for reduced discharge of potential environmental pollutants and a more cost effective control program for diverse industrial systems.

- 40 [0008] It is an object of the present invention to provide novel biocidal compositions which provide enhanced effectiveness for controlling the growth of both microorganisms and macroorganisms in industrial fluids. It is another object of this invention to provide an improved method for controlling microorganisms and macroorganisms in industrial fluids. It is an advantage of the present invention that the biocidal compositions permit a reduction in the amount of biocide required to achieve acceptable biological control.

- 45 [0009] Important applications of the synergistic biocidal compositions of the present invention include, but are not limited to, controlling the growth of microorganisms such as bacteria, fungi and algae, and macroorganisms such as zebra mussels, blue mussels and the Asiatic clam in aqueous media. The composition of the present invention possesses unexpected synergistic activity against microorganisms and macroorganisms.

- 50 [0010] Stabilized sodium hypobromite is less volatile and more stable than other halogenated molecules such as sodium hypochlorite and sodium hypobromite. Also, much higher levels of available halogen for microbial disinfection

are attained using stabilized sodium hypobromite than with other halogenated antimicrobials. Further, stabilized sodium hypobromite yielded reduced generation of adsorbable organic halogen (AOX) in laboratory studies and process waters.

[0011] This invention provides superior biological control by combining stabilized sodium hypobromite with at least one compound selected from the group consisting of coco alkyldimethylamine oxide, n-coco alkyltrimethylenediamine, tetra-alkyl phosphonium chloride, 7-oxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane-2,3-dicarboxylic acid and 4,5-dichloro-2-n-octyl-4-isothiazoline-3-one. The combination of the two biocides leads to unexpectedly superior results, and allows for significantly less use of either biocide compared to the necessary amount of each individual biocide to achieve the same biocidal performance. In addition to biocidal synergism, the use of these biocide combinations may result in improved removal of adherent biomass due to the biocidal persistence of coco alkyldimethylamine oxide, n-coco alkyltrimethylenediamine, tetra-alkyl phosphonium chloride, 7-oxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane-2,3-dicarboxylic acid and 4,5-dichloro-2-n-octyl-4-isothiazoline-3-one coupled with the reactivity and biofilm removal properties of stabilized sodium hypobromite. As is well known in the art, stabilized sodium hypobromite, coco alkyldimethylamine oxide, n-coco alkyltrimethylenediamine, tetra-alkyl phosphonium chloride, 7-oxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane-2,3-dicarboxylic acid and 4,5-dichloro-2-n-octyl-4-isothiazoline-3-one exhibit biocidal activity when used alone. However, the prior art does not teach or suggest the performance advantages of the inventive combinations or the resulting synergistic behavior.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0012] The composition of the present invention comprises stabilized sodium hypobromite and at least one compound selected from the group consisting of coco alkyldimethylamine oxide, n-coco alkyltrimethylenediamine, tetra-alkyl phosphonium chloride, 7-oxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane-2,3-dicarboxylic acid and 4,5-dichloro-2-n-octyl-4-isothiazoline-3-one.

[0013] The inventive composition effectively controls biological growth in industrial fluids.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0014] The present invention is directed to a composition and method for controlling biological growth in industrial fluids using stabilized sodium hypobromite in synergistic combinations. In accordance with this invention, stabilized sodium hypobromite is added to the industrial fluid in combination with another compound. Suitable compounds which may be used in combination with the stabilized sodium hypobromite include, but are not limited to, surfactants such as coco alkyldimethylamine oxide and n-coco alkyltrimethylenediamine, and non-oxidizing biocides such as tetra-alkyl phosphonium chloride, 7-oxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane-2,3-dicarboxylic acid (also known as endothall) and 4,5-dichloro-2-n-octyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one.

[0015] The biological growth may be microbiological or macrobiological in nature. Microbiological growth includes bacteria, fungi, algae and combinations thereof. Macrobiological growth includes zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*, *Dreissena bugensis*), blue mussels (*Mytilus edulis*), and the Asiatic clam (*Corbicula fluminea*).

[0016] The stabilized sodium hypobromite may be sodium hypobromite stabilized with sodium sulfamate. The sodium hypobromite may be stabilized with an alkali metal sulfamate, such as sodium sulfamate. Moreover, the sodium hypobromite may also be stabilized with an acid amide derivative selected from the group consisting of carbonic acids, hydrogen cyanide, carboxylic acids, amino acids, sulfuric acids, phosphoric acids and boric acids.

[0017] The industrial fluids include cooling waters; food, beverage and industrial process waters; pulp and paper mill systems; brewery pasteurizers; sweetwater systems; air washer systems; oil field drilling fluids and muds; petroleum recovery processes; industrial lubricants; cutting fluids; heat transfer systems; gas scrubber systems; latex systems; clay and pigment systems; decorative fountains; water intake pipes; ballast water tanks and ship reservoirs, among others.

[0018] The amount of stabilized sodium hypobromite may range from about 0.05 ppm to about 1000 ppm total residual oxidant (as chlorine) and the amount of the compound selected from the group consisting of coco alkyldimethylamine oxide, n-coco alkyltrimethylenediamine, tetra-alkyl phosphonium chloride, 7-oxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane-2,3-dicarboxylic acid and 4,5-dichloro-2-n-octyl-4-isothiazoline-3-one ranges from about 0.05 ppm to about 1000 ppm active ingredient (active ingredient refers to the amount of the compound in the industrial fluid). "Total residual oxidant" as used herein is defined as hypobromite or hypobromous acid, expressed as chlorine, including chemical combinations of those two compounds with ammonia or organic nitrogen-containing compounds.

[0019] As used herein, the term "stabilized sodium hypobromite" indicates NaOBr stabilized with sodium sulfamate. However, NaOBr can be stabilized with other stabilizers which includes the acid amide derivatives of carbonic acids, hydrogen cyanide, carboxylic acids, amino acids, sulfuric acids, phosphoric acids and boric acids. Moreover, stabilizers can be selected from the group of compounds having an N-H or NH₂ group adjacent to an electron withdrawing functional group such as C=O, S=O, P=O, or B=O.

[0020] Stabilization of NaOBr is desirable to prevent disproportionation into halates and halides upon storage. As a result of stabilization, these biocides can be stored more safely since less bromate is generated, fewer organic molecules containing halogens are formed, and volatility is reduced. A stabilized aqueous alkali or alkaline earth metal hypobromite solution may be prepared in the following fashion:

- a. Mixing an aqueous solution of alkali or alkaline earth metal hypochlorite having from about 5 percent to about 70 percent available halogen as chlorine with a water soluble bromide ion source;
- b. Allowing the bromide ion source and the alkali or alkaline earth metal hypochlorite to react to form a 0.5 to 70 percent by weight aqueous solution of unstabilized alkali or alkaline earth metal hypobromite;
- c. Adding to the unstabilized solution of alkali or alkaline earth metal hypobromite an aqueous solution of an alkali metal sulfamate in a quantity to provide a molar ratio of alkali metal sulfamate to alkali or alkaline earth metal hypobromite from about 0.5 to about 7; and
- d. Recovering a stabilized aqueous alkali or alkaline earth metal hypobromite solution.

[0021] The stabilized sodium hypobromite utilized herein (STABREX®) is available from Nakco Chemical Company of Naperville, IL.

[0022] The synergistic composition of this invention may be added separately to an industrial fluid or may be formulated as a simple mixture comprising its essential ingredients.

[0023] It may be the case that the stabilized sodium hypobromite will act synergistically against microorganisms when combined with other non-oxidizing biocides or surfactants. It is expected that the above detailed description would also apply to a composition and method for controlling microbiological growth in industrial fluids comprising a combination of stabilized sodium hypobromite with other non-oxidizing biocides. Examples of other non-oxidizing biocides include glutaraldehyde, 2,2-dibromo-3-nitropropionamide (DBNPA), 2-bromo-2-nitropropane-1,3 diol, 1-bromo-1-(bromomethyl)-1,3-propanedicarbonitrile, tetrachloroisophthalonitrile, alkyl dimethylbenzylammonium chloride (ADBAC), dimethyl dialkyl ammonium chloride, poly(oxyethylene(dimethyliminio)ethylene(dimethyliminio) ethylene dichloride, methylene bithiocyanate (MBT), 2-decylthioethanamine (DTEA), tetrakis(hydroxymethyl) phosphonium sulfate (THPS), dithiocarbamate, cyanodithioimidocarbonate, 2-methyl-5-nitroimidazole-1-ethanol, 2-(2-bromo-2-nitroethenyl) furan (BNEF), beta-bromo-beta-nitrostyrene (BNS), beta-nitrostyrene (NS), beta-nitrovinyl furan (NVF), 2-bromo-2-bromomethyl-glutaronitrile (BBMGN), bis(trichloromethyl) sulfone, S-(2-hydroxypropyl)thiomethanesulfonate, tetrahydro-3,5-dimethyl-2H-1,3,5-hydrazine-2-thione, 2-(thiocyanomethylthio)benzothiazole (TCTMB), 2-bromo-4'-hydroxyacetophenone, 1,4-bis(bromoacetoxy)-2-butene, bis(tributyltin)oxide (TBTO), copper sulfate, 2-(tert-butylamino)-4-chloro-6-(ethylamino)-s-triazine, dodecylguanidine acetate and dodecylguanidine hydrochloride (DGH).

EXAMPLES

[0024] The following examples are intended to be illustrative of the present invention and to teach one of ordinary skill how to make and use the invention. These examples are not intended to limit the invention or its protection in any way.

[0025] Synergism was determined in each of the Examples below by an industrially accepted method as described by Kull, F.C., Eisman, P.C., Sylwestrowicz, H.D. and Mayer, R.L. in *Applied Microbiology*, 9:538-541 (1961), using the equation for the calculation of a synergy index determined by:

$$Q_a/Q_A + Q_b/Q_B = \text{Synergy Index (S.I.)}$$

wherein

Q_A = concentration of compound A in parts per million (ppm) acting alone, which produced an endpoint;

Q_a = concentration of compound A in ppm, in the mixture, which produced an endpoint;

Q_B = concentration of compound B in ppm acting alone which produced an endpoint;

Q_b = concentration of compound B in ppm, in the mixture, which produced an endpoint.

[0026] When the sum of Q_a/Q_A and Q_b/Q_B is greater than 1.0, antagonism is indicated. When the sum is equal to 1.0, additivity is indicated, and when the sum is less than 1.0, synergy is demonstrated.

Example 1

[0027] *Chlorella sorokiniana* green algae were grown in Proteose medium for three weeks, harvested by centrifugation, and resuspended in synthetic cooling water (pH 8.2). For the assay, 96-well tissue culture microplate (FAL-

CON[®] 3075) wells were prepared with 200 μ L of the indicated biocides in synthetic cooling water. 100 μ L of a *Chlorella sorokiniana* cell suspension [10^7 Colony Forming Units (CFU) per mL] were inoculated into each microplate well providing a 300 μ L total volume. Microplates were covered with the provided lid and incubated at 25°C for six days with 16 hour/8 hour light/dark cycles (cool-white fluorescent lamps, 1255 lux). Following incubation, the supernatant from each microplate well was removed by aspiration and chlorophyll was extracted from the remaining cells using dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO). The reduction in algae cell chlorophyll content due to algicidal activity was measured using the optical density at 650 nm (Beckman Biomek[®] plate reader) of each extraction. As shown below in Table 1, synergy was indicated.

Table 1

Biocide	Biocide Amount (ppm)	Optical Density (OD _{650nm})	Synergy Index ¹
None	None	0.412	
A	16	0.097	
A	8	0.293	
A	4	0.356	
A	2	0.373	
A	1	0.396	
A	0.5	0.412	
A	0.25	0.390	
B	16	0.057	
B	8	0.085	
B	4	0.192	
B	2	0.196	
B	1	0.251	
B	0.5	0.279	
B	0.25	0.369	
A/B	8/0.5	0.122	0.750
A/B	1/1	0.216	0.563
A/B	0.5/1	0.243	0.531
A/B	0.25/1	0.210	0.516

A = STABREX[®] stabilized sodium hypobromite, available from Nalco Chemical Company, Naperville, IL. Biocide measured as ppm total residual oxidant.

B = 4,5-dichloro-2-n-octyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one, available from Rohm and Haas Company, Philadelphia, PA. Biocide measured as ppm active ingredient.

¹ Endpoint used for synergism index calculations was OD₆₅₀ = 0.250.

Example 2

[0028] The test protocol described above in Example 1 was utilized. However, for this example, the test inoculum was 100 μ L of *Scenedesmus obliquus* green algae (10^6 CFU/mL). As shown below in Table 2, synergy was indicated.

Table 2

Biocide	Biocide Amount (ppm)	Optical Density (OD _{650nm})	Synergy Index ¹
None	None	0.164	
A	32	0.051	
A	16	0.095	
A	8	0.108	
A	4	0.134	
A	2	0.161	
A	1	0.149	
A	0.5	0.156	
C	256	0.044	
C	128	0.046	
C	64	0.048	
C	32	0.063	
C	16	0.092	
C	8	0.105	
C	4	0.118	
A/C	16/4	0.071	0.625
A/C	16/8	0.066	0.750
A/C	8/8	0.075	0.500
A/C	8/16	0.066	0.750
A/C	4/16	0.063	0.625

A = STABREX® stabilized sodium hypobromite, available from Nalco Chemical Company, Naperville, IL. Biocide measured as ppm total residual oxidant.

C = Coco alkyldimethylamine oxide measured as ppm active ingredient.

¹ Endpoint used for synergism index calculations was OD₆₅₀ = 0.080.

Example 3

[0029] Green algae isolated from a Malaysian cooling tower were grown in Bold's Basal Medium for several days, harvested by centrifugation, and resuspended in synthetic cooling water (pH 8.2). For the assay, 12-well tissue culture microplate (FALCON®) wells were prepared with 4 mL algae suspension (OD_{664nm} = 0.15) and dosed with the indicated biocide. Plates were incubated at 25°C for 24 hours with continuous illumination. Following incubation, a 1 mL sample from each microplate well was removed and chlorophyll in each sample was measured using extraction with 90% acetone and a standard trichromatic spectrophotometric procedure [Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater, 19th edition (1995)]. The results are shown below in Table 3 and are reported as percent reduction in chlorophyll relative to an untreated control culture. Synergy was indicated.

Table 3

Biocide	Biocide amount (ppm)	Percent Reduction in Chlorophyll	Synergy Index ¹
None	None	0	
A	32	68.74	
A	16	34.12	
A	8	26.98	
A	4	0	
A	2	0	
A	1	0	
A	0.5	0	
D	16	100	
D	12	86.52	
D	8	66.27	
D	4	37.47	
D	2	19.12	
D	1	7.91	
A/D	2/2	51.20	0.310
A/D	4/2	46.61	0.380
A/D	8/2	42.83	0.500
A/D	1/4	54.94	0.530
A/D	2/4	61.82	0.560
A/D	4/4	64.54	0.630

A = STABREX[®] stabilized sodium hypobromite, available from Nalco Chemical Company, Naperville, IL. Biocide measured as ppm total residual oxidant.

D = tetra-alkyl phosphonium chloride, available from FMC, Princeton, NJ as Bel-lacide[®] 350. Biocide measured as ppm active ingredient.

¹ Endpoint used for synergism index calculations was chlorophyll reduction \geq 40%.

[0030] While the present invention is described above in connection with preferred or illustrative embodiments, these embodiments are not intended to be exhaustive or limiting of the invention. Rather, the invention is intended to cover all alternatives, modifications and equivalents included within its spirit and scope, as defined by the appended claims.

Claims

1. A composition for controlling biological growth in industrial fluids comprises effective amounts of stabilized sodium hypobromite and at least one compound selected from the group consisting of coco alkyltrimethylenediamine, tetra-alkyl phosphonium chloride, 7-oxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane-2,3-dicarboxylic acid and 4,5-dichloro-2-n-octyl-4-isothiazoline-3-one.
2. The composition of claim 1 wherein the biological growth is microbiological growth selected from the group consisting of bacteria, fungi, algae and combinations thereof.
3. The composition of claim 1 wherein the biological growth is macrobiological growth selected from the group consisting of zebra mussels, blue mussels and the Asiatic clam.

4. The composition of claim 1 wherein the stabilized sodium hypobromite is sodium hypobromite stabilized with sodium sulfamate.
5. The composition of claim 4 wherein the sodium hypobromite is stabilized with an alkali metal sulfamate.
6. The composition of claim 4 wherein the sodium hypobromite is stabilized with an acid amide derivative selected from the group consisting of carbonic acids, hydrogen cyanide, carboxylic acids, amino acids, sulfuric acids, phosphoric acids and boric acids.
7. The composition of claim 1 wherein the industrial fluids are selected from the group consisting of cooling waters; food, beverage and industrial process waters; pulp and paper mill systems; brewery pasteurizers; sweetwater systems; air washer systems; oil field drilling fluids and muds; petroleum recovery processes; industrial lubricants; cutting fluids; heat transfer systems; gas scrubber systems; latex systems; clay and pigment systems; decorative fountains; water intake pipes; ballast water tanks and ship reservoirs.
8. The composition of claim 1 wherein the amount of stabilized sodium hypobromite ranges from about 0.05 ppm to about 1000 ppm total residual oxidant and the amount of the compound selected from the group consisting of coco alkyldimethylamine oxide, n-coco alkyltrimethylenediamine, tetra-alkyl phosphonium chloride, 7-oxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane-2,3-dicarboxylic acid and 4,5-dichloro-2-n-octyl-4-isothiazoline-3-one ranges from about 0.05 ppm to about 1000 ppm active ingredient.
9. A method of controlling biological growth in an industrial fluid which comprises the step of adding to the industrial fluid effective biological growth controlling amounts of stabilized sodium hypobromite and at least one compound selected from the group consisting of coco alkyldimethylamine oxide, n-coco alkyltrimethylenediamine, tetra-alkyl phosphonium chloride, 7-oxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane-2,3-dicarboxylic acid and 4,5-dichloro-2-n-octyl-4-isothiazoline-3-one.
10. The method of claim 9 wherein the biological growth is microbiological growth selected from the group consisting of bacteria, fungi, algae and combinations thereof.
11. The method of claim 11 wherein the biological growth is macrobiological growth selected from the group consisting of zebra mussels, blue mussels and the Asiatic clam.
12. The method of claim 9 wherein the industrial fluid is selected from the group consisting of: cooling waters; food, beverage and industrial process waters; pulp and paper mill systems; brewery pasteurizers; sweetwater systems; air washer systems; oil field drilling fluids and muds; petroleum recovery processes; industrial lubricants; cutting fluids; heat transfer systems; gas scrubber systems; latex systems; clay and pigment systems; decorative fountains; water intake pipes; ballast water tanks and ship reservoirs.
13. The method of claim 9 wherein the amount of stabilized sodium hypobromite ranges from about 0.05 ppm to about 1000 ppm total residual oxidant and the amount of the compound selected from the group consisting of coco alkyldimethylamine oxide, n-coco alkyltrimethylenediamine, tetra-alkyl phosphonium chloride, 7-oxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane-2,3-dicarboxylic acid and 4,5-dichloro-2-n-octyl-4-isothiazoline-3-one ranges from about 0.05 ppm to about 1000 ppm active ingredient.
14. A composition for controlling macrobiological growth in industrial fluids which comprises a combination of stabilized sodium hypobromite with a compound selected from the group consisting of glutaraldehyde, 2,2-dibromo-3-nitropropionamide, 2-bromo-2-nitropropane-1,3 diol, 1-bromo-1-(bromomethyl)-1,3-propanedicarbonitrile, tetrachloroisophthalonitrile, alkyldimethylbenzylammonium chloride, dimethyl dialkyl ammonium chloride, poly(oxyethylene(dimethyliminio)ethylene(diethyliminio) ethylene dichloride, methylene bithiocyanate, 2-decylthioethanamine, tetrakis(hydroxymethyl) phosphonium sulfate, dithiocarbamate, cyanodithioimidocarbonate, 2-methyl-5-nitroimidazole-1-ethanol, 2-(2-bromo-2-nitroethenyl)furan, beta-bromo-beta-nitrostyrene, beta-nitrostyrene, beta-nitrovinyl furan, 2-bromo-2-bromomethyl glutaronitrile, bis(trichloromethyl) sulfone, S-(2-hydroxypropyl)thiomethanesulfonate, tetrahydro-3,5-dimethyl-2H-1,3,5-hydrazine-2-thione, 2-(thiocyanomethylthio)benzothiazole, 2-bromo-4'-hydroxyacetophenone, 1,4-bis(bromoacetoxyl)-2-butene, bis(tributyltin)oxide, copper sulfate, (2-tert-butylamino)-4-chloro-6-(ethylamino)-s-triazine, dodecylguanidine acetate and dodecylguanidine hydrochloride.

15. A method of controlling microbiological growth in an industrial fluid which comprises the step of adding to the industrial fluid a combination of an effective antimicrobial amount of stabilized sodium hypobromite and a compound selected from the group consisting of glutaraldehyde, 2,2-dibromo-3-nitropropionamide, 2-bromo-2-nitropropane-1,3 diol, 1-bromo-1-(bromomethyl)-1,3-propanedicarbonitrile, tetrachloroisophthalonitrile, 5 alkyldimethylbenzylammonium chloride, dimethyl dialkyl ammonium chloride, poly(oxyethylene(dimethyliminio)ethylene(dimethyliminio)ethylene dichloride, methylene bithiocyanate, 2-decylthioethanamine, tetrakis(hydroxymethyl)phosphonium sulfate, dithiocarbamate, cyanodithioimidocarbonate, 2-methyl-5-nitroimidazole-1-ethanol, 2-(2-bromo-2-nitroethenyl)furan, beta-bromo-beta-nitrostyrene, beta-nitrostyrene, beta-nitrovinyl furan, 2-bromo-2-bromomethyl glutaronitrile, bis(trichloromethyl) sulfone, S-(2-hydroxypropyl)thiomethanesulfonate, tetrahydro-3,5-10 dimethyl-2H-1,3,5-hydrazine-2-thione, 2-(thiocyanomethylthio)benzothiazole, 2-bromo-4'-hydroxyacetophenone, 1,4-bis(bromoacetoxy)-2-butene, bis(tributyltin)oxide, copper sulfate, 2-(tert-butylamino)-4-chloro-6-(ethylamino)-s-triazine, dodecylguanidine acetate and dodecylguanidine hydrochloride.

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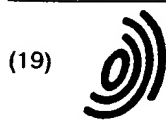
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(54) **Composition and method for controlling biological growth using stabilized sodium hypobromite in synergistic combinations**

(57) A synergistic composition and method for controlling biological growth in industrial fluids are disclosed, wherein the composition comprises stabilized sodium hypobromite and at least one compound selected from the group consisting of coco alkyl dimethylamine oxide, n-coco alkyl trimethylenediamine, tetra-alkyl phosphonium chloride, 7-oxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane-2,3-dicarboxylic acid and 4,5-dichloro-2-n-octyl-4-isothiazoline-3-one.

EP 1 080 641 A3



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 00 11 7445

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	EP 0 913 091 A (NALCO CHEMICAL CO) 6 May 1999 (1999-05-06) * paragraphs '0018!', '0019!', '0025!'-'0028!'; claims 15,16 *	1-15	A01N59/00 A01N43/90 A01N43/80 A01N57/34 A01N33/24
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Y	US 5 468 739 A (WHITEKETTLE WILSON K ET AL) 21 November 1995 (1995-11-21) * column 3, line 52 - column 4, line 65 *	11	
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A	WO 99 06320 A (NALCO CHEMICAL CO) 11 February 1999 (1999-02-11) * page 7, line 1-20 * * page 11, paragraph 3 - page 13, paragraph 1 * * page 18, paragraph 3 - page 19, paragraph 2 *	1-15	A01N
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 5 April 2001	Examiner Klaver, J
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X: particularly relevant if taken alone Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D: document cited in the application L: document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

EPO FORM 1503 03 82 (P04C01)



European Patent
Office

Application Number

EP 00 11 7445

CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- ☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☒ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☐ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:



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**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

Application Number

EP 00 11 7445

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1 - 13 (all partial)

Synergistic compositions of stabilized sodium hypobromite and a compound selected from cocoalkyl dimethylamine oxide and N-cocoalkyl trimethylene diamine and methods of using these compositions.

2. Claims: 1 - 13 (all partial)

Synergistic composition of stabilized sodium hypobromite and tetra alkyl phosphonium chloride and methods of using this composition.

3. Claims: 1 - 13 (all partial)

Synergistic composition of stabilized sodium hypobromite and 7-oxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane-2,3-dicarboxylic acid and methods of using this composition.

4. Claims: 1 - 13 (all partial)

Synergistic composition of stabilized sodium hypobromite and 4,5-dichloro-2-n-octyl-4-isothiazoline-3-one and methods of using this composition.

5. Claims: 14,15

Synergistic combinations of stabilized hypobromite and a second biocide as defined by claim 14 and a method of controlling microbiological growth as defined by claim 15.

The application lacks unity within the meaning of Article 82 EPC for the following reasons:

The common concept linking together the compositions as defined by present claims 1 and 14 is the synergistic effect between the stabilized sodium hypobromite on the one hand and the second biocidal ingredient on the other. However, synergistic compositions for controlling biological growth in industrial aqueous systems comprising stabilized sodium hypobromite are known from EP 913 091 A1 (= D1). This document discloses such combinations in which the second biocidal agent is either a mixture of 5-Cl-2-Me-4-isothiazolin-3-one and 2-Me-4-isothiazolin-3-one or one of the compounds mentioned in claim 14 of the present application (see D1, page 4, paragraphs 0025-0028 and claims 14 and 16).

The second biocidal ingredients of the various synergistic combinations of the application differ structurally substantially. The various embodiments of the present application (inventions number 1 - 5) hence are not linked by a novel common general inventive concept, contrary to the requirements of Art. 82 EPC.

Since the search could be completed without additional work, the applicant was not invited to pay additional search fees (Guidelines B



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**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

Application Number
EP 00 11 7445

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

VII 2.3).

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 00 11 7445

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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